

CLAIMS

1. A portable device for configuring a machine of the type which handles coins or valuable papers and which has an interface for connecting an external unit, thereby allowing the machine to be configured from the external unit, the portable device being characterized by

a control unit;

a memory;

a first interface adapted to be connected to said external unit; and

a second interface adapted to be connected to the interface of said machine;

the control unit being adapted, when the portable device is connected to the external unit via the first interface, to emulate said machine and to receive configuration data intended for said machine from the external unit and store it in the memory, and

the control unit being adapted, when the portable device is connected to said machine via the second interface, to emulate the external unit and deliver said configuration data stored in the memory to said machine.

2. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the external unit is a computer of the type including a portable computer, a personal computer, a handheld computer, a workstation or the like.

3. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second interfaces are serial.

4. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuration data comprises at least one of the following: settings and/or parameters relating to validity/authenticity/denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively; reference data; or language support data.

5. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said configuration data comprises software adapted to be executed in a microprocessor incorporated in the machine.

6. A portable device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the control unit is adapted, when the portable device is connected to said machine via the second interface, to receive operating data from said machine and store it in the memory; and

wherein the control unit is adapted, when the portable device is connected to the external unit via the first interface, to transfer said operating data stored in the memory to the external unit.

7. A portable device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said operating data comprises number/validity/ authenticity/denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively, that have been handled by the machine, and/or physical parameters detected by the machine for such coins and valuable papers, and/or a service log for said machine.

8. A portable device as claimed in claim 3, wherein power is supplied to the device from the first and second serial interfaces.

9. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and the second interface form part of the same physical unit.

10. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said machine is a coin sorter or a coin counter.

11. A method of configuring a machine of the type which handles coins or valuable papers and which can be configured from an external unit, the method being characterized by the steps of

connecting a portable device, other than said machine and said external unit, to said external unit;

receiving configuration data intended for said machine from the external unit and storing it in the portable device;

connecting the portable device to said machine; and

delivering said stored configuration data to said machine.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the external unit is a computer of the type including a portable computer, a personal computer, a handheld computer, a workstation or the like.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said configuration data comprises at least one of the following: settings and/or parameters relating to validity/authenticity/denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively; reference data; or language support data.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said configuration data comprises software adapted to be executed in said machine.

15. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of
connecting the portable device to said machine;
receiving operating data from said machine and storing it in the portable device;
connecting the portable device to the external unit; and
transferring said stored operating data to the external unit.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said operating data comprises number/validity/authenticity/ denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively, that have been handled by the machine and/or physical parameters detected by the machine for such coins and valuable papers.

17. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said machine is a coin sorter or a coin counter.

18. A method of configuring a machine of the type which handles coins or valuable papers and which can be configured from an external unit, the method being characterized by the steps of

providing a portable device, other than said machine and said external unit;

detecting, in said portable device, that said portable device is connected to said external unit;

emulating said machine by said portable device so as to receive configuration data intended for said machine from the external unit and store said configuration data in the portable device;

detecting, in said portable device, that said portable device is connected to said machine; and

emulating said external unit by said portable device so as to deliver said stored configuration data to said machine.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the external unit is a computer of the type including a portable computer, a personal computer, a handheld computer, a workstation or the like.

20. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said configuration data comprises at least one of the following: settings and/or parameters relating to validity/authenticity/denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively; reference data; or language support data.

21. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said configuration data comprises software adapted to be executed in said machine.

22. A method as claimed in claim 18,
wherein, in said step of emulating said external unit by said portable device, operating data is received from said machine and stored in said portable device, and
wherein, in said step of emulating said machine by said portable device, said stored operating data is transferred to said external unit.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said operating data comprises number/validity/authenticity/denomination/type of coins and valuable papers, respectively, that have been handled by the machine, and/or physical parameters detected by the machine for such coins and valuable papers, and/or a service log for said machine.

24. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said machine is a coin sorter or a coin counter.